



## Political Signs

Per Section 7.3.12.N of the City's Unified Development Ordinance –

### N. Political Signs

Political signs are permitted in all zoning districts, but they shall be limited only to developed properties. These signs are permitted for a period of not more than 6 weeks before a duly authorized election date. Political signs shall be removed within 1 week following the authorized general election date or within 1 week of the candidate's or issue's election or defeat, whichever comes first. Primary and general election dates shall be established by applicable federal, state or local law. Political signs shall not exceed 8 square feet in area and shall not exceed 2 signs per lot. Political signs shall not be located closer than 17 feet to the edge of a public road surface. However, no political sign shall be permitted in a public right-of-way. Political signs displayed in nonresidential or multiple-family zoning districts may only be placed in the window area of the primary structure.

Political signs may be displayed on private property in connection with political campaigns or noncommercial civic health, safety or welfare campaigns. Political signs shall not exceed 8 square feet in sign area and shall not exceed a height of 6 feet. Political signs displayed in nonresidential or multifamily zoning districts may only be placed in the window areas of the primary structure. All such signs shall be removed within 10 days of the date of conclusion of the campaign. Candidates are obligated and required to remove campaign signs placed on their behalf that are unlawfully located or that extend beyond the conclusion of the campaign and shall be liable to the City for the costs incurred in removing such unlawful signs. Campaign signs are specifically prohibited in or upon any public right-of-way or other public property and shall not be located closer than 17 feet from the curb of a public road surface.



**NOTE 1 -** The section of the code regulating yard signs was written and adopted when there was only one election date. Given that the process and procedures for elections have been modernized to include early voting, staff believe that it is reasonable to apply the six week sign period to the first date that a registered voter in the City of Decatur could exercise his/her right to vote. In this case, six weeks before the first day of the early voting period is August 31 and as such would be the first day that signs could be placed based on this rule.

**NOTE 2 -** Signs placed in the public rights-of-way, on or in public property, in sidewalk tree well planters or similar places will be removed and thrown away so make sure any signs are located on private property.